

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview on January 24, 2005. The substance of this interview is incorporated in the remarks found below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 13, 46, 60, 62 – 64, 67 – 88, 90, 93, 96 – 102, and 106.

Claims 1 – 61, 65, 66, 89 – 92, 94, 95, 97, 98, 103 – 105, and 107 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 93 is amended to place it in independent format, including all limitations of original base claim 89. Claim 93 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 96 is amended to place it in independent format, including all limitations of original base claim 94. Claim 96 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 106, 108, and 110 are amended to be dependent from claim 96.

New claims 111 – 139 are added. Claims 112 and 126 are new independent claims.

Claim 112 includes an intermediate compartment, a handle attached to the body in a region of the rear compartment, and a movable front part of the forward compartment. Support for new independent claim 112 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and in paragraphs 0020 (movable front) and 0056 (handle) of the specification as filed.

Claim 126 includes an intermediate compartment, a handle attached to the body in a region of the rear compartment, and a body with a chamfered lower front region. Support for new independent claim 126 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and in paragraphs 0056 (handle) and 0057 (chamfered region).

Support for dependent claims 113 – 123 and 126 - 137 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed. Support for the chamfered regions of dependent claims 111 and 124 can be found, for example, in paragraph 0057. Support for the switch of claims 125 and 139 can be found, for example, in paragraph 0066. Support for the movable front of claim 138 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed and paragraph 0020.

Based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action, it is believed that new claims 111 – 139 are also allowable.

The currently pending independent claims are 62, 77, 84, 93, 96, 112, and 126.

Objections to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to as not showing the claimed elements of a front portion of the forward compartment being movable; a removable sidewall; and a switch located at the rear of the housing. Applicants respectfully submit that each of these elements are shown in the drawings.

Figure 4 shows a front portion of a forward compartment that is movable according to an embodiment of the invention. In this application, the term “movable” means “something that is capable of being moved, removed, or displaced.” This is consistent with the definition recited in the specification in paragraph 0020 on page 4 and in paragraph 0057 on page 9. This is also consistent with the ordinary meaning of the term “movable” as defined in Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition. (Copies of the relevant pages from this dictionary are provided with this response.) Thus, Figure 4 shows an embodiment where the front portion of the forward compartment has been moved, removed, or displaced.

The removable sidewall including a cover is shown in Figure 5 as element 126. The removable cover 126 is described in paragraph 0067 of the specification as filed. Additionally, in paragraph 0053, side wall 23 shown in Figure 1 is described as being removable.

A switch located at the rear of the housing is shown, for example, in Figure 5 as reference number 113. A switch located at the rear of the housing is also shown in Figure 4. A description of switch 113 can be found in paragraph 0066.

In the Office Action, the drawings are also objected as not showing a tray for the intermediate compartment. An embodiment where the intermediate compartment is a removable tray is described in paragraph 0063. A replacement sheet for Figure 4 is included with this amendment to show the removable tray as reference number 190. Paragraph 0063 is also amended to associate the removable tray with reference number 190. No new matter is added.

As noted in the Office Action, the chamfered lower front region of the body is described in the specification, for example, at paragraph 0057. The chamfered lower front region is also shown in Figure 3. Per the Examiner's request, Figure 3 is amended to indicate the chamfered region as reference number 92. Paragraph 0057 is also amended to associate the chamfered region with reference number 92. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections

All claim rejections are rendered moot by this amendment. All rejected claims are either canceled or are amended to be dependent from an allowable claim.

Conclusions

Based on the above amendments, it is believed that all currently pending claims are allowable. Accordingly, applicants request early and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

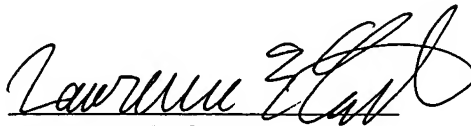
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a Petition for Extension of Time for the required time period.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully yours,

Date: February 1, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence E. Carter", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Amendment to the Drawings

Replacement sheets for Figures 3 and 4 are attached after the last page of this amendment. The amendment to Figure 3 adds reference number 92 to indicate the chamfered surface as described in paragraph 0057. The amendment to Figure 4 adds (in phantom) the removable tray described in paragraph 0063. The removable tray is indicated by reference number 190. No new matter is introduced.